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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 80

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Jim R. Trujillo

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO
COLLABORATE WITH THE CHILDREN'S CABINET TO STUDY THE MERITS AND
FEASIBILITY OF CREATING AN OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME DIVISION IN THE
DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, studies by law enforcement and nonprofit
organizations show that the hours between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00
p.m. are the peak hours for children to become victims of
violent crimes or to commit crimes themselves; and

WHEREAS, these hours are also the peak hours for drug and
alcohol use and for automobile accidents involving children;
and

WHEREAS, research shows that after-school programs can
have a positive impact on society by making streets safer and
by reducing risk-taking behavior such as alcohol, tobacco and

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1 drug use by teenagers; and

2 WHEREAS, after-school programs lead to improved
3 educational outcomes for children by increasing school
4 attendance, reducing suspensions and improving standardized
5 test scores; and

6 WHEREAS, after-school programs reduce crime, health costs
7 associated with drug and alcohol use, grade repetition and the
8 need for remedial education; and

9 WHEREAS, after-school programs help working families by
10 providing their children with a safe, educationally enriching
11 place to go after school when there is no parent at home; and

12 WHEREAS, school buildings, playgrounds and other school
13 facilities can and should be better utilized before, during and
14 after school hours for structured out-of-school time for
15 children; and

16 WHEREAS, only a small portion of elementary and middle
17 schools in the state currently operate an out-of-school time
18 program; and

19 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, nineteen percent of children in
20 kindergarten through twelfth grade are responsible for taking
21 care of themselves after school hours, and more than thirty-
22 nine percent of those children would be likely to participate
23 in an after-school program if one were available in their
24 community; and

25 WHEREAS, approximately fifty-five percent of New Mexico's

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1 children have either a single working parent or two parents who
2 work, making out-of-school time programs a necessity rather
3 than a luxury;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families
6 department be requested to collaborate with the children's
7 cabinet to study the merits and feasibility of creating an out-
8 of-school time division in the department; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and
10 families department consult with a forum for youth in the
11 community that maintains a network of out-of-school time
12 providers in conducting the study; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study identify ways in
14 which an out-of-school time program can streamline funding
15 through the centralization of all out-of-school time programs
16 within the state; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study develop and
18 disseminate standards for quality programs and identify ways to
19 expand out-of-school time services for children; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and
21 families department call upon existing out-of-school time
22 providers to continue to offer these vital services while the
23 study is being conducted; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 delivered to all members of the children's cabinet for further

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review and action.

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